

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 6 has been extensively amended so as to set forth with specificity the details of the present invention which distinguish over the cited prior art reference. Support for the claim amendments made in independent claim 6 can be found in paragraph [0016] of the instant application.

With reference to amended independent claim 6 and paragraph [0016] of the instant specification it can be seen that the bearing region 6 is machined in a way after casting that a clearance remains free between the bearing region 6 of the bearing block 5 and the receiving region 10 of the semitrailer coupling plate 4. This clearance serves for compensating movements of the coupling plate 4 in the direction of the pivoting axis 5. This limitation has been added to independent claim 6. The prior art fails to suggest such a structure with a function which is obtained therefrom.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

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It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patently define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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